



Soco Transmission <socotransmission@gmail.com>

Majors Ranch Property Owners Association Comments

ranchliving@comcast.net <ranchliving@comcast.net>

Mon, Sep 21, 2009 at 12:50
PM

To: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov, info@socotransmission.com

Mr. Rankin, please see attached comments on behalf of Major's Ranch. Please feel free to call me to discuss any of these concerns. After our meeting this last Saturday, our community is very concerned about this issue and does not want to be hypocritical as we are served by powerlines, but there has to be some routes taken off the table for consideration as they maximize the impact to the environment and community. Please reply so that I know that you got this document on behalf of our entire community. Thank you!

Jason L. Smith

Major's Ranch Property Owners Association

Power Line Committee Chairperson

303-881-7457

Phase II, Parcel 22

 **Dennis Rankin Majors Ranch 9_21_09.docx**
3234K

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/22/2009



Major's Ranch Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 889, La Veta, CO 81055

Dennis Rankin
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mail Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Dennis:

Attached please find comments prepared on behalf of Major's Ranch Property Owners Association concerning the San Luis Valley – Calumet – Comanche Transmission Project. We sincerely appreciate your interest and consideration of the views expressed by our concerned residents.

We look forward to meeting with you later this year to discuss this project further and looking at further route refinement. If you have any questions in advance of those meeting, please do not hesitate to call me at 303-881-7457.

On behalf of MRPOA,

Jason L. Smith
Committee Chairperson

Majors Ranch Past and Present



Views looking south right in path of route 66 and 65.

Major's Ranch is a large lot rural residential subdivision that until ~1985 was a ~20,000 acre working cattle ranch owned by one family who homesteaded the land pre turn of the century. The ranch was master planned in the late 1980's with a focus on preserving Colorado's rich heritage in ranching and farming by land planning large, in some cases several hundred acres, lots and further mandating through the covenants, conditions and restrictions that any original lot could only be subdivided one time into a maximum of two lots. This is in strong contrast to the 35 acre ranchette phenomenon

that is un-thoughtfully breaking up one of Colorado's greatest attributes as an iconic western state with deep roots in farming and ranching. It is important to point out that this concept for Major's land plan was not the highest and best financial option for the project developer, nor has it been easy or inexpensive for all of the individual owners to own and underwrite these abnormally large residential lots. It is only from the exceptional desire and commitment to preserve Colorado in its early history that motivates the roughly 200 property owners to make this substantial investment. This overall concept of Major's allows each lot owner to have a residential home while also grazing cattle, horses or livestock, maintaining the feel of the previous, one owner 20,000 acre working ranch. All of the owners in Major's have paid dearly in pursuit of this dream. Currently, there are approximately 200 lots, which are almost all owned jointly representing approximately 400 residents, not including their immediate family members who are also committed to Major's Ranch. At the present time a portion of the lots do not have a finished home; however, almost all of the owners are in some stage of construction, design or planning of their dream residence. Needless to say, the possibility of major power transmission lines poses a foremost and very emotional threat to, in many cases, what is the life dream and culmination of decades of saving and planning to reside in Major's Ranch and pursue a rural residential life.

Macro Corridor Study Procedural Objections

B-035-001

Prior to commenting on the alternative corridors and routes that pass through Major's Ranch and the issues related to them, there have been some procedural missteps that we need to address first. Of the roughly 200 lot owners, we can identify only a few members who received mail notification from Tri State about the proposed power lines. Because of this the Major's Ranch owners have been disadvantaged in participating in the workshops and public comment opportunities that other communities have had. In fact, as recently as 9/15/2009 we are still talking with owners who know virtually nothing about the project and we as a community are scrambling trying to notify everyone about the project and seek comments. As a result, all of the members will not be able to comment by the 9/21/09 deadline for the public scoping statement. By way of example, the January 2009 update to the Macro Corridor Study (MCS) deleted alternative corridors that reduce the total possible corridors to some that pass through Major's Ranch. In discussions with other stakeholders and adjacent communities, clearly they were able to voice their opposition at a much earlier stage, meanwhile the Major's Ranch residents have been left in the dark leaving our community at greater peril to becoming the only remaining corridor. Furthermore, the Figures used in the MCS and distributed to stakeholders for comment are inaccurate. Specifically, Sheet Map 6 and Sheet Map 7 severely understate the actual buildings and residences within Major's Ranch. On top of this, MCS Figure A-4 Subdivisions, does not delineate Major's Ranch as a residential community. All combined, when following the opportunity and constraint criteria in Section 4.3 of the MCS, it is no wonder routes 66, 65, 63 and 62 completely contradict the avoidance areas clearly identified in Section 4.3. Quantitatively, these routes through Major's Ranch represent from 4 to 6 linear miles depending on the route, but put 200 properties with 500 owners in a financial loss situation and are destroying the lifetime culmination of planning and saving. Based on these procedural inaccuracies, we object that a legitimate Macro Corridor Study has been conducted and specifically object to Corridor J as we believe had the exhibits been accurate from their origination, this would not be considered a viable corridor.

B-035-002

B-035-003

B-035-001: Public Involvement Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The project is in the planning and environmental review stages. Current project information will be available on the RUS project website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and the Utilities' project website, <http://www.socotransmission.com/>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-002: Correction to Data (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The information you provided will be verified and project materials will be updated accordingly. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-003: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations. Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/envIRON.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

Project Wide Objections

Major's Ranch has no way to evaluate the position taken in Section 1 and Section 3 of the MCS and is not in a position to call into question the San Luis Valley's (SLV) need for greater capacity. For this discussion, we will assume this is accurate. We would like to point out that the SLV has been identified as possessing high qualities for Solar Radiation technologies given its abundant sunshine, flat, treeless topography, available land, cold climate and high altitude. Taken together, it seems incredible that the power needs of the SLV are not being solved by an RFP for renewable resource projects in the SLV! Instead, the proposal is to bring power from regular fossil fuel sources from several counties away, traversing 152 linear miles of mostly private property. The required right of way alone will be close to 2,763 acres and the condemnation must involve thousands of private property owners! Assuming even an inadequate buffer on either side of the power lines of 5,000 feet (truth is that power lines can be seen and felt for many miles) the negatively impacted area to wildlife, human health, property values, view planes and Colorado's aesthetics is 194,560 acres! Can Colorado really afford to give up 200,000 acres for every small community that needs to have some extra protection in case of the what-if scenario? Now assume that one Megawatt from Solar Radiation technology requires approximately 6 acres of land, ONE, 600 acre privately held solar facility, effecting nobody's private property, requiring no condemnation, could solve the power needs of the entire San Luis Valley. On this basis, and given that our federal tax dollars are being used to finance this project, we passionately want the Rural Utilities Service to question Tri State on the basis of necessity, especially when so many homes and wildlife are in peril with the proposed alternative. Knowing that this aforementioned solution is so viable, and that the transmission lines are merely carrying power through our community to serve another, at the very least the specific routing should only be considered within existing major transportation and utility corridors, which the MCS identifies as abundant within the study area.

B-035-004

B-035-005

B-035-006

Proposed Alternate Route Objections

Underground Power Line Requirement Concerning the specific proposed routes of 62, 63, 66, 65 and 48 running through Major's Ranch we consider these routes as unconditionally and absolutely unacceptable for any and all of the following reasons. First and foremost, our community covenants, conditions and restrictions do not allow overhead power lines to serve our homes and ranching facilities. We are holding ourselves to the same standard as we expect anyone who would involuntarily take our land from us. In the MCS and hand out brochures there is a cost comparison portraying the added expense of underground lines; all of us have paid this premium on our own land. We feel there are better routes along existing major utility corridors, but in lieu of that, we would demand that any power lines through Major's Ranch be located for the few miles in the existing transportation right of way, underground.

B-035-007

B-035-008

Many Residences Are Planned As previously stated, we are a rural residential community. A recent poll of the lot owners who currently have not built a home revealed that of the respondents, 100% of them plan to build a home. Having said this, in addition to getting the current homes accurately depicted, we would like to send you a GIS point file of all of the proposed home sites that are in the construction, design and planning stages and ask that you add that to the residential structures depicted on Sheet Map 6 and Sheet Map 7. Please be aware that many owners who don't have a residence have spent and invested heavily on driveways, fences and gates, site work, pad

B-035-009

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-004: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-005: Purpose and Need (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-006: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-007: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

preparation and underground wet and dry utilities prior to going vertical on their house and deserve to have these sites added to the map. As well, we have the ability to subdivide our land once into two parcels and the new parcel would be allowed to build a home as well. In condemnation cases involving the value of appraised land before the taking, highest and best use will be the standard and that may very well be determined to be different from its existing use, i.e., agricultural grazing.

B-035-010

Critical Wildlife Habitat A rapid passerby would never believe nor appreciate the incredible abundance of wildlife on Major's Ranch. Elk are profoundly abundant and rely on Major's Ranch for the sanctuary it affords the cows to escape the high country and tend to their calves in spring. Please see the picture exhibit immediately following this text, there are numerous spring elk calf examples directly under the proposed route 66. During the winter months, elk also flee the high country to feed on the more accessible grass within Majors. Deer, pronghorn antelope, turkey, rabbits, coyotes, doves, eagles and owls are all prevalent within Major's Ranch. One of the most unique and special wildlife species within Major's Ranch is the rare and threatened Desert Bighorns. It takes a very special terrain to support this amazing species that prefers habitat dominated by grass, low shrubs, rock cover and areas near open escape. They can be seen almost daily during the fall and winter months on the many inaccessible cliffs of the rock wall dikes that are like spokes on a wagon wheel flowing off of Silver Mountain. The Black Hills is an extension of this habitat and very important to the Desert Bighorns. Eagles, bobcats, black bear and mountain lion also call these rock walls and the Black Hills home. Please refer to the picture exhibit at the end of this document for specific proof of all the incredible wildlife habitat within Major's Ranch.

B-035-011

Economic Disaster Although it is not one of the constraints listed in the MCS to steer the routing of the power lines, property values are extremely important to owners within Major's Ranch. Our expectation and appreciation of a "lot" is measured much differently than residents within areas like suburban Denver. The incredibly large acreages that we consider our 'yards' provide a special peace, tranquility and complete privacy that only a very large acreage can achieve. If Tri State can truly understand and appreciate this, then when a power line is proposed to cut through the back section of someone's 100 acres, (gee, what's the big deal) this is as devastating to us as it would be to propose to a ¼ acre residence in Denver to cut his/her driveway in half. Any proposal to bisect any owner's lot in Major's will be met with the greatest opposition; this is completely unacceptable and to even suggest it is to entirely misunderstand what Major's Ranch is all about. Owning a lot in Major's is extremely expensive, as much as ten times what the typical 'lot' goes for in a suburban area like Denver and many owners have put every penny they have into this amenity. Major's Ranch residents also believe that through its stewardship of the land and investment in improving it, properties are much more than a place to live; no, in fact many owners have foregone other prudent retirement saving and investments to be able to afford this property and are expecting that it will be an investment that performs better than the average home. In today's mortgage loan climate, our residents are very worried about the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requirement of appraisers, who MUST, note and comment on the effect on marketability resulting from the proximity to such site hazards and nuisances. *Just Compensation* as defined in condemnation "is the amount of loss for which a property owner is compensated when his or her property is taken; which should put the owner in as good a position as if the property had not been taken." Courts have refused to rule that this is the same as "Market Value"; in other words, simple land comparables will not factor in the special attributes of Major's Ranch. Major's Ranch residents can do many things on their land because of its size and use; one example, is hunting. Should the power lines damage any of these abilities, we will be looking for *Just Compensation* for all of these abilities. To quantify just this one aspect is a straight forward calculation. Although most of the

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B-035-008: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-009: Correction to Data (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-010: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-011: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment

residents prefer to photograph the wildlife, many are offered \$5,000 and up to hunt elk on private land. Assume that the average 250 acre property can support 2 hunters per year, given the 4 rifle and 1 archery specific seasons. The net present value of these future payments discounted at 6.0% is \$150,462. So the total damage for every ten properties that the transmission lines run through is \$1,504,620. As of September 2009, Major's Ranch is having our residents request Letters Of Intent from hunters specifying this interest and price so that we have several years of written documentation for the appraisers.

EPA Says Electro Magnetic Field Threat Is Real

B-035-012

To have all of this discussion about the physical and economic attributes of Major's Ranch is tertiary to and departing from the heart of Major's Ranch; people and family. Ignoring all else, our community will NEVER allow danger to befall our children and family. If for no other reason the following summaries taken from medical websites make the thought of power transmission lines running across our homes, frankly, appalling. Dr. David Carpenter, Dean at the School of Public Health, State University of New York believes it is likely that up to 30% of all childhood cancers come from exposure to EMFs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns "There is reason for concern" and advises prudent avoidance". Martin Halper, the EPA's Director of Analysis and Support says "I have never seen a set of epidemiological studies that remotely approached the weight of evidence that we're seeing with EMFs. Clearly there is something here." Concern over EMFs exploded after Paul Brodeur wrote a series of articles in the New Yorker Magazine in June 1989. Because of Paul Brodeur's reputation his articles had a catalytic effect on scientists, reporters and concerned people throughout the world. In November 1989, the Department of Energy reported that "It has now become generally accepted that there are, indeed, biological effects due to field exposure." The EMF issue gained more publicity in 1990 when alarming reports appeared in Time, the Wall Street Journal, Business Week and popular computer publications. ABC's Ted Koppel and CBS's Dan Rather both aired special segments on EMFs. In addition to the long-term health concerns, buying a house with high fields will be an economic disaster. In a few years, when power line radiation is as well known as asbestos and radon, a house with high fields will be practically impossible to sell. Already there are hundreds of lawsuits regarding EMFs and property devaluation. By 1990, over one hundred studies had been conducted worldwide. Of these, at least two dozen epidemiological studies on humans indicated a link between EMFs and serious health problems. In response to public pressure, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began reviewing and evaluating the available literature. In a draft report issued in March 1990, the EPA recommended that EMFs be classified as a Class B carcinogen -- a "probable human carcinogen and joined the ranks of formaldehyde, DDT, dioxins and PCBs.

Conclusion and Requests

B-035-013

We urge members of Tri State G&T and the Rural Utilities Service to visit Major's Ranch, to sit on our decks and tour our properties, to appreciate our wildlife and everything we have done to preserve this part of Colorado. We think by doing so, you will understand why we are so impassioned by the thought of destroying everything we have worked for. We can appreciate that communities need power and power is delivered by transmission line; but Major's Ranch is not the best alternative to achieve the goals of the power company. Please, remove corridors J and K from the possible

noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-012: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-013: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-013 | alternatives and let's focus on route refinement on the remaining macro corridors along existing power transmission routes and minimize the environmental impact per NEPA tenants.

Major's Ranch Provides Critical Wildlife Habitat

Pictures of the Rare Desert Bighorn,
directly in the path of Routes 48, 62,
63, 66 and 65.



Pictures of Rocky Mtn Elk, these pictures are taken right between Routes 66 and 65.



These pictures show critical elk calving grounds and are taken right underneath proposed route 66! We have pictures like these from every year's offspring, these are from 2009.

September 22, 2009



September 22, 2009

Pictures of Colorado Mule Deer, these pictures are taken right underneath Routes 66!



Pictures of the Bobcats, directly in the path of Routes 48, 62, 63, 66 and 65.



Pictures of wild turkeys, Swainson hawk, black bear and coyotes, directly in the path of Routes 48, 62, 63, 66 and 65.



Pictures of the Prairie Pronghorn and wild ducks, directly in the path of Routes 63, 66 and 65.



Major's Ranch Owner Comments

B-035-014

I went to buy a piece of land in northern Colorado, but walked away immediately when I saw power poles and power lines marring the landscape. On my Majors Ranch land (Phase 3, Lot 1B) in Huerfano County, I enjoy an unobstructed view of hills, mountains, and plains in all directions. I would hate to have power poles and power lines messing up those views, or any one of them, and so would most potential future buyers of my land. There's an immediate cost to my enjoyment, and a future cost to my investment. **I specifically cannot live with routes 66 and 65, they would destroy wildlife habitat and property values.**

Gregory B. Appling
September 8, 2009

As one of the many property owners of Major's Ranch, I highly oppose the idea of installing power lines through the properties especially routes 66 and 65. All of this land is *Private Property*, with most owners building, or preparing to build homes on this land.

Although rural, Major's Ranch is a *residential* subdivision, and the addition of large power towers would definitely detract from it's natural beauty. The Major's Ranch covenants mandate that any added electrical lines are to be placed *underground*, and all of the owners have complied with this rule. There are many areas already in existence for power lines, and just because the shortest route is through *Private Property*, doesn't mean it will be acceptable to the owners at Major's Ranch.

There is a strong belief that electromagnetic fields can cause health problems, especially in developing brains. I for one, will not take chances with my children's health in order for a "for profit" company to save money by taking the shortest installation route. Install the lines elsewhere, and if you must do it on *Private Property*, do it on your own.

Sincerely,

Michael and Cheryl Hollingsworth
Phase I, lot 24B

To Whom It May Concern:

We have had the privilege of living in one of the most beautiful places on earth for over four years now. We have almost the daily opportunity to watch elk, mule deer, prong horns, coyotes, hawks, wild turkeys and even eagles. These sightings do not even begin to compare to the majestic beauty of our surrounding mountains.

B-035-015

B-035-016

We are gravely concerned about the possibility of electric transmission lines running right down the middle of our piece of paradise. Since the towers will stand 110 feet tall, they will surely impede our spectacular views. Not to mention, interfere with our abundant wildlife and their habitat.

B-035-014: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-015: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-016: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-017

Please take into consideration the home and property owners of Major's Ranch when you make your final decision regarding the placement of these transmission lines, **routes 66 and 65 destroy a very pristine natural area and ruin property values and peoples' homes and dreams.**

Sincerely,
Dave & Kelly Wheeler
Phase 2 Lot 28
Major's Ranch
Walsenburg, CO 81089

B-035-018

We would like to formally state our opposition to tri-states intentions of running powerlines via routes 66 and 65 through majors ranch. not only are we concerned about the dangerous emf's, the effect on wildlife (especially the eagles), the destruction of our views, but we are extremely upset about the inevitable depletion of our property values. my wife and i have worked our entire lives to be in the positon of living our american dream, owning a small working ranch. to see our properties devalued is unacceptable when one considers the endless routes that can be taken for the power lines. routes that can be placed along existing highways, and the **proposed routes of 66 and 65 completely disrespect the homes and properties as they are running as the crow flies vs. along existing corridors.**

sincerely, james and linda morris, majors ranch, ph:2 lot 36
345 c street
golden, co.
80401
303-345-3717

We would never have guessed that we would have a problem with power lines when the Major's Ranch covenant states "all telephone and power lines shall be underground ..."and it is required by all home owners to bare the expense of burying their cable (Major Ranch Declaration of Covenants, Article 2-Protective Covenants. Section 2.2).

This is the home that Joe and I build with our own hands and that we plan to live in until the day we die.

B-035-019

The views, the wildlife and the peace and quiet are all the things that lured us to Major's Ranch and they are truly the things that make our lives worthwhile.

Having power lines running at either the Route 66 or 65 or 63 location would destroy all the things in life that we enjoy most.

We have been so fortunate to have found one of the last places on earth that offers us the quality of life that we have sacrificed everything else to have. We can't let this happen. What can we do?

B-035-017: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-018: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-019: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

Joe and Debra Malone

Resident of Major's Ranch for 12 years.

Phase 2, Lot 37

Wow, just when I thought things couldn't get worse. My mother passed away on May 5, my dad died on June 28 and now I find out that **route 66 would run right below my property on Major Peak. This is a house that I spent all of 2006 and 2007 designing and building with my own hands.**

Have you folks even driven down Majors Ranch Road to see that this is a residential area - not agricultural?

B-035-020 | My property has been described as the best views and one of the best built homes in all of Huerfano County. Your **power line along proposed route 66 would render a half-million dollar property virtually worthless on the real estate market.** Not that I intended to sell. My goal for this property was to leave this house to a very dear friend for whom this house was custom built. This is a legacy property - a home that was built to last 200-plus years.

Now please don't see me as a hypocrite who uses electricity but doesn't want the transmission line in their own back yard (NIMBY). My home sits completely off grid. I generate my own electricity with wind and solar power with no transmission lines, thus keeping system costs and environmental impact to a minimum.

B-035-021 | What environmental impact study have you done in the area? I'll bet none. You probably aren't
B-035-022 | aware of horned lizards in the area - a species that can halt construction.

There is no compelling reason to place the needed transmission line outside the existing utility corridors. Unless you want me in the yards of Tri-State executives, tearing shit up with my pickup truck, I suggest you stay out of my back yard.

Rich Stromberg
2110 Majors Ranch Rd., Phase 2 lot 13

Tri State,

B-035-023 | As a Majors Ranch property owner I am submitting my comments **of disapproval for the proposed power line distribution routes of 66, 65, 63, 48, 62 through Majors Ranch** or even near these properties. These comments of disapproval are based of several different reasons some of which are as follows: Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Property Values, Ascetics Value, View Plane, Noise and Noxious nature of Power Lines to humans and wildlife.

B-035-020: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-021: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has

determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/enviro.htm>.

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<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-022: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

- B-035-024** | Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat---These power lines cause very loud noises and produce EMP forces which are dangerous and detrimental to the wildlife and their grazing areas. It is even possible that the EMP fields could cause problems with the reproduction of the wildlife by causing deformation or even premature births.
- B-035-025** | Property Values---Due to the size, noise, unpleasing visual aspects of power transmission lines the property values will diminish. People looking to purchase property on Majors Ranch or anywhere within the vicinity of these lines will not pay even what we had to pay to originally purchase the property.
- B-035-026** | Ascetics Value---As stated before the entire area around or near these lines will lose the beautiful view of the mountains and the serene country side because of the tall, huge power line support structures and the power lines themselves will be obstructing the views or in your view when you look in the direction of their placement. Gone will be the beautiful open country side.
- B-035-027** | Noise and Noxious nature of Power Lines to humans and wildlife---The noise that these transmission lines make and the dangerous EMP fields that can exist is dangerous and hazardous to humans and wildlife alike.

I certainly hope that you will give great consideration to the damage that will be caused by placing the route of these transmission power lines through the Major Ranch area when there are alternate routes which would cause less impact to wildlife, human beings and the beautiful landscape that our heavenly creator established for the sake of saving the company a few dollars.

Robert & Jennifer Johnston
Phase 4, Lot 2

- B-035-028** | **I am opposed to the propose alternate routes 65 and 66** because of the damage it will cause to the value of my property, the ascetics of the property, the safety to my family from electro-magnetic radiation and the affect of the power lines on the wildlife that inhabit the ranch.
- I feel there are better routes that affect less property owners and which there is already a state right of way to allow the construction of the lines without have to take private property. Please select a route that would not damage the lives of so many people.

Thank you

James Leffingwell
Carol Bates
Phase II, lot 17A2

As owner in Majors Ranch I purchased my parcel to enjoy the scenery and planned my home where I could enjoy its surrounding beauty.. **Now my plans have been shattered by announcement that Power-line 66 , 65, 62 could be crossing Majors ranch.**
All my efforts and plans have gone to waste along with all the financial investment ..

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-023: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-024: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-025: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-026: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment

It is My wish that You reconsider a different route for your power lines. And use existing routes such as the hwy 69 route that have already been established .

Ruben Padilla
Phase 2 lot 18b

September 15, 2009

TRI-STATE G&T POWER
1100 W. 116th Avenue
Westminster, Colorado 80234

Directors of the Board, Management:

I, Dawn Acrey McMenamin, owner of lot 34, Phase II, Majors Ranch, Huerfano County, Colorado, wish to address you in regards to my deeply set opposition to the threat of power lines desecrating the beautiful and unmarred land I and my husband have for so long labored, and to which we have long planned to retire.

My husband is a disabled Vietnam Veteran who can no longer build with his hands, but has spent the better part of three years designing, beam by beam, the home which we intend to place on our acreage, but have now been forced to put on hold due to a shadow placed over the future of several sections of Majors Ranch - **of particular concern, your proposed routes 65 and 66.**

Please consider the beauty of the land, and, in our case, and that of many of our neighbors, the family and financial investment of a lifetime.

We ask that you cease and desist your intention to scar a visually stunning environment - one already voluntarily reduced to minimum plots of 40 to 50 acres - with power lines that can be alternatively routed via highway and urban landscapes.

Please leave this exquisite land to the intentions, hopes, and hard-earned acquisition of its owners. That is, after all, not yet an unreasonable request in the United States of America.

Thank you for your attention,
Mrs. Dawn Acrey McMenamin
5220 Sale Avenue
Woodland Hills, California 91364

noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-027: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-028: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

In the event that the project is judged to be needed, I have the following comments about the possible routing of power lines from Calumet to SLV.

Potential alignments shown as #65 and #66 on map sheet 7 cross much of the residential subdivision of Majors Ranch. There are a number of residences that will be impacted severely if either of those alignments is chosen, and the residents tend to be educated and unwilling to have their backyards (and property values) molested. Those residents will resist granting of easements. The use of eminent domain to obtain those easements will engender lawsuits and a large helping of ill will toward Tristate.

B-035-029

The northern alignment (#64 connecting to #60) avoids the most populated parts of the residential area, and has the advantage of following an exiting power line alignment. Additionally, as a future consideration, the area north of Calumet to Cuerno Verde is being heavily investigated as possible sites for wind power farms. Routing the Calumet-SLV line to the north would facilitate connecting those sources should they be developed.

Bob and Margye Damjanovich
Phase I, lot 6

proposed routes and can't believe that **routes 66 and 65 crosses very near our property. I'm very disturbed after finding this out.** When we purchased our land 14 or so years ago we fell in love with the natural beauty. We, like many that bought into Majors ranch had plans to build and retire there. Having high tension power lines are the last thing we want to see happen to the pristine setting of the ranch. We are adamantly opposed to any power lines crossing or any related intrusions on Majors any where! We ask you present our views to the board on our behalf. Unfortunately the status of our lives presently prevent us from personally voicing our distressing concerns.

B-035-030

I bought property at Majors Ranch largely due to the remote location and beauty. I also understood that all utility lines were to be buried underground..so as not to be an eyesore. I am very distressed now to learn that Tri State wants to place these huge utility structures in our subdivision, when there is already established corridor in which to do so. Natural is very important to me and I do not want EMF factor (a potential carcinogenic) in our area. Place those ugly, dangerous things elsewhere!

B-035-031

Thanks, Beth Newby
Phase I, lot 22

To Whom it May Concern:

I am extremely upset at the prospect of high tension power lines going through Majors Ranch. My husband and I spent years looking for a large tract of property where we could be in a rural residential area and yet feel as if we did not have neighbors right next door. We found that in Majors Ranch. We own 240 acres and plan on building a runway on our property so that my husband could commute to work in our private plane. He works at Los Alamos National Labs in Los Alamos New Mexico and the only feasible way to commute to there is by small plane. Putting electric lines above ground precludes us from using our property as we have planned.

B-035-029: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-030: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-031: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

All existing covenants say electric lines have to be underground and then you come along and don't have to follow any of the rules of the area. That is not reasonable.

B-035-032 I work in the field of cancer treatment as a radiation therapist and know that the perception of these towers and electric lines is that they cause cancer, in particular, brain tumors and leukemia. That is the general perception of the public. If these power lines go in, it will be impossible for my husband and I to ever be able to sell our property at a fair price. The property values of all the acres will drop drastically.

B-035-033 Who do you think you are that you think you have the right to so negatively impact so many people and their property?

Would you want your property values to drop and your plans for a house and runway be quashed by an outside entity? I think not. If you were faced with a similar situation, you would be upset also.

In particular I oppose the following alternate routes: 66, 65, 48, 62, 63, 59, and 61.

B-035-034 There is already an existing array of transportation and utility corridors and another one that cuts across as the crow flies is redundant and unnecessary.

B-035-035 Wildlife is under such great pressure now with loss of habitat. I am very concerned that erecting these towers and lines will cause more pressure for them. Our area is not fenced so that wildlife and cattle can wander and coexist. We have pronghorn on our property that use our seasonal watering holes to drink. Other parcels have Desert Bighorn, Elk, Deer and Pronghorn that calve and drop their lambs there. What will this intrusion do to that? Please don't think with dollar signs. Think reasonably and with compassion. Please don't put the power lines in. There have to remain places that stay relatively untouched. Let Majors Ranch be part of that area that stays open and rural and beautiful.

You must learn to live in harmony with Mother Nature.

Sincerely,
Faye Niesen
Majors Ranch
Phase 1, Lot 19

September 14, 2009

I want to strongly protest the power line project that I understand is being planned to cut across the Major's ranch subdivision.

I have owned property on Major's ranch for around 14 years. I love seeing all the wildlife on the ranch: deer, elk, pronghorn, and even eagles. I think it is important to preserve the important wildlife corridor and birthing ground on the ranch. This is one of the reasons why I bought property on the ranch when it became available in the early 1990's.

B-035-036 I feel that a power line would seriously take away from my property value, as well as that of my neighbors. I am also concerned about the potential health hazards that such a power brings with it.

B-035-037 I just cannot understand why it would be acceptable for a major power line to be planned to cross our growing residential Home Owners Association property. Aren't there a lot of existing transportation and utility corridors which would make better sense for placing the proposed line? I would trust so. Please, don't degrade the value of my land!

I want to protest proposed power line routes 48, 62, 63, 65 and 66.

Thank you for taking my concerns seriously.

Sincerely,
Major's ranch property owner,

B-035-032: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-033: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-034: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-035: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

Kathleen M. Dec
Kmdec1227@aol.com

September 15, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to protest the power line project which is currently planned to cross the property lines of the Major's Ranch subdivision in Huerfano County.

B-035-038 I have owned property on Major's Ranch for over a decade. I chose this location carefully for its abundance of clear skies and its important wildlife habitat. I see both of these issues as being negatively impacted if the proposed power line goes through or near my property line—or that of my neighbors. I also feel that a power line would seriously hurt my property values. I am also concerned about the potential health hazards of this substantial power line on the members of our home owners association (HOA).

B-035-039 The covenants of our home owners association state that all owners must have our electrical power line placed underground. The reason for this is to maintain the beauty of our ranch. Placing a large, above-ground power line through our ranch undermines our HOA covenants.

B-035-040 I do not understand why this power line would be planned to cross our residential HOA property when there are multiple existing utility corridors which already exist in the area. So, establishing a new power line corridor through our HOA makes no sense to me. **Specifically I protest proposed route numbers: 48, 62, 63, 65 and 66.**

Please do not soil the beauty of our property—use existing utility corridors.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jon Looney
jonloony@aol.com

PLAIN AND SIMPLE

For most of us having a place at the ranch is a life time dream. A place we have invested a great of money and hard work.

Our convenants mandate that all electrical lines be underground, period.

Putting the powerlines through any other place than existing transportation and utility corridors is simply unacceptable and **we specifically protest routes 66, 65, 63, 62.**

Rupert & Marjorie Lona
Majors Ranch
Phase II Lot 35

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-036: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-037: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-038: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-039: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the

B-035-042

B-035-043

We, Phil and Mary Pierangeli located in Phase 2 lot 16A2, are **clearly against and do not support the positioning of the power lines/towers across Majors Ranch specifically routes 66 and 65**. Our property is our residence. The positioning of these towers on Majors will have a negative effect on property values. This is a fact. The towers will also have a negative impact on wildlife and livestock not to mention the degradation of the esthetic value of the elevation and horizon.

Phil and Mary Pierangeli

**JOSEPH & ANITA LEBLANC
LYNX RANCH
P. O. Box 321
LA Veta, CO 81055
(337) 304-6322**

September 16, 2009

Re: Tri-State Transmission Lines
Majors Ranch, LaVeta, Colorado

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We are property owners at Majors Ranch, Phase 2, Lot 18-A, La Veta, Co. We both come from ranching and farming families with hard work ethics and have worked hard all our lives for what we have.

We will attempt to keep this as short as possible, (which will be impossible) but would like to get our point across as to why we love our land and our neighbors at Majors Ranch. **AND WHY WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE TRANSMISSION POWER LINES RUN THRU IT.**

We are **ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED** to the transmission lines running thru **ANY** of the Majors Ranch property owners properties.

WE ARE SPECIFICALLY OPPOSED TO ALTERNATE ROUTE #'S: 66, 63, 65, 62, 61, 59, and 48.

We purchased our beautiful 300+ Acres in January, 1996 and have been working very, very hard over the years to ready it for our home, our horses and cattle. (As I am sure many other owners have done or are doing). Also, there are some wonderful people whom already reside on the properties at Majors Ranch. The beauty of the Majors Ranch is a **RURAL RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION** with **covenants**, but yet we live on a ranch. Transmission lines should "NOT" run thru anyone owners land where they are going to live.

Also, we have spent a considerable amount of money for 1/2 mile of **"UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY"** **THIS IS IN OUR COVENANTS**, a water well and water lines, architects, and over 20,000' of fencing (Net wire, not barb wire). With the exception of the underground electric lines, the rest was done by my-self over the years, which I might add has been no easy task.

proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-040: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-041: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-042: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

We have had the pleasures of seeing the most beautiful wildlife and habitat we have ever come upon. We also have the beautiful views of all the mountain ranges. Which we do not want to see cluttered by transmission lines.

When we first encountered the Majors Ranch, it was like heaven on earth and still is. The Majors Ranch has so much to offer. There Bighorn Sheep, Deer, Elk, Antelope, Bear, and all of their young. Simply beautiful and amazing.

(OUR ONLY PRAYER RIGHT NOW IS THAT IT STAYS THAT WAY.)

We looked at many, many large pieces of property in New Mexico and Colorado before choosing to live at Majors Ranch. There is no pollution, no humidity, no noise, and no clutter, but mostly unique to the Majors Ranch is the **"SOUND OF SILENCE"**.

We ask that you would please take the "time" to **WALK** and take a **very, very serious** look at the Majors Ranch like we did in 1995. I believe you will see all the beautiful & wonderful things it has to offer, many of which I have not mentioned. But you must take the time to do this. And you will see and hear everything and then you will know what we are all talking about.

This can not be done from a high-rise building, looking on your computer at Goggle Earth, or riding in a helicopter or airplane over the ranch, or even looking at geographical maps. If you so choose to do that, you will never understand any of our concerns.

B-035-044

WOULD YOU ALSO PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATE NORTHERN ROUTE THRU THE OPEN PLAINS OR PREFEREBLY A MAIN HIGH-WAY CORRIDOR AND "NOT" THRU THE BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL MAJORS RANCH.

Thank-you very much for taking the time to read our opposing views on the transmission lines. We are sorry to say, we can not see anything positive about them being on the Majors Ranch.

Please reconsider and re-evaluate your options, if you take the time evaluate the whole ranch with your own eyes and ears you will see exactly what everyone's concerns are.

Joseph & Anita LeBlanc
Lot 18-A
Majors Ranch
La Veta, Colorado
337-304-6322

B-035-045

We do have some concerns with the proposed routes. First, Majors Ranch is a habitat and breeding sanctuary for the Big Horn sheep designated by the State of Colorado. There are other animals which inhabit the area as well. We have seen large numbers of Elk, Deer, Antelope, Rabbits and Coyote. We have also seen indications of Bears and Mountain Lions. We are concerned these power lines will disturb this habitat and caused them to move. Possibly toward towns like what is happening at all the large metro areas on the front range.

B-035-043: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-044: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-045: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-046 | Second, Majors Ranch is a rural residential community and such power lines will have negative impacts on quality of life issues, especially the published health effects from EMF. We are in the planning stage of building a 2800 square foot home, a 1400 square foot guest home and barns for horses, other livestock and storage. It is our intent to locate these buildings in the proposed corridor, as shown on maps 4, 5, and 6. However, should access be granted we will be forced to reevaluate whether or not to build at all, due to the size of the corridor across our property. At our property, the width of the proposed corridor appears to be at least a mile wide. How can this be? Why do the power companies get to affect so much land area, without restraint, for such a small structure? Why don't they have to work within tighter limits like every property owner in this country? Why can't they come up with a more aesthetically acceptable solution and one with less health concerns? We in Majors Ranch are required to install all electrical and other utilities underground, so why shouldn't these proposed lines be buried as well? If this was proposed for Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, or Fort Collins you could count on a requirement for better, more tightly controlled solutions. This is our property and it is every bit important to us as if it were in Cherry Hills Farms, outside of Denver, where the likes of John Elway, Mike Shanahan and other wealth people live. They would not tolerate or allow such a proposal, so why are we not getting the same treatment? **We specifically protest the alternative routes of 48, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, and 66.** Again the land area required for the proposed power lines seems excessive.

B-035-049 | Lastly, why are the power companies not using existing corridors? **Even if those corridors need to be expanded a bit to accommodate this new line, the easement is already accepted by the residents in the vicinity. The idea of routing this new line from a different direction doesn't mean it has to be a new corridor. It seems to me the cost of installing/building this new line would a lot cheaper in an existing easement than establishing a whole new easement.**

We hope you can use these ideas. Please contact us if we can be of anymore help.

Thanks again,
Scott Kindra 303.507.3634(C), 303.722.5449(H)
Julie Weber
Susan Turner
P3 Lot 12

B-035-050 | There is also the obvious problem of serious damage to property and re-sale values, not only to the land and homes the power lines actually sit on, but to those who have a view filled with buzzing power lines instead of scenery and the serenity of the landscape - which is why people buy and live on land such as this; otherwise, might as well live in a city somewhere. These power lines completely negate the pastoral image which drew us to these lands and we passionately protest routes **48, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, and 66.**

B-035-051 |

B-035-046: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-047: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-048: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-049: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

Dr. Ed Orsini
Phase IV, lot 26

Dear Jason,

Thank you for collecting our comments to Tri State. In our dealings with Petroglyph several years ago, we realize that uniting property owners is the most efficient way to convince these pirates that they cannot just blow smoke and flash mirrors and we all jump off the cliff like lemmings.

The following are our feelings about the latest attack on our land and the land of our neighbors.

We have long dreamed of someday owning our own place - a healthy, wide-open place with views, clean air, and wildlife. We searched many places and decided on Majors Ranch. We were so thrilled to have a small piece of that land.

Now, that dream is under attack from folks who have other options (the many already-cleared and already-approved utility routes and roadways available to run these lines) and we pray they take advantage of those other options.

This is the new millennium. We like to think that mankind has evolved and understands and respects the need to protect our natural resources instead of gulping them up in the hope of making another dollar. **We hope TriState sees the logic in running their power lines thru areas where corridors have already been cut for utilities.**

B-035-052

Majors consists of many folks who have the same dreams we have. Every lot will someday have a family living there. So many plans and dreams will be stopped if these power lines go thru Majors. **If we have included underground power mandates for ourselves (via our approved covenants), why would someone think it is no big deal to drape their larger, uglier lines across the same land we have elected to protect even if it costs us more to run our own power underground?**

B-035-053

We are especially horrified by alternative routes 48, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, and 66. We truly fear the potential damage to our health from the EMF transmissions coming from these lines. We have tried to stay healthy all these years and now some strangers have decided to jeopardize that health. It is especially disgusting considering they have other options.

Marijane paints and the wide open vistas at Majors will provide endless opportunities to capture the beauty there. Marijane's hope of having the time to paint these beautiful areas from our own land will be greatly diminished if power lines soon drape across the sky.

B-035-054

We have spent entire afternoons watching antelope. Those were beautiful afternoons and we hope to repeat them. We want to ensure these herds of antelope continue to reside on the ranch along with deer, elk, blue birds, and many other wonderful creatures on the ranch.

B-035-050: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-051: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-052: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-053: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

Thank you,
Dan and Marijane Balaskovits, Phase I, Lot 20

I'm Otto L. Smith owner of lot # 9, phase #1 located in Majors Ranch, Huerfano County CO.
I protest the instillation of the power lines on or near my land.
based for the following reasons

- B-035-055** | 1/ I have NOT received or been officially notified by Tri State with any written announcement via US Mail of their plans to use my land.
- B-035-056** | 2/ The required response time period is insufficient for adequate and proper land owner evaluation.
- B-035-057** | 3/ **Any cross country power transmission lines located on Majors Ranch will drastically de-value my investment in this property, specifically routes 66 and 65.**
- B-035-058** | 4/ All high tension power lines present a extreme health hazard by the EMF they generate.
- 5/ Financial compensation for the use of utility easements is NOT equal to the physical DAMAGES incurred.
- B-035-059** | 6/ The site selection of the Calumet sub station location must be questioned by all parties involved.
- 7/ The location of this sub station has needlessly dictated a very large portion of the line routes directly over and through Majors Ranch property.
- Otto L. Smith
3402 S. Dallas Ct
Denver CO 80231
303 755 2287

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-054: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-055: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/enviro.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-056: Public Involvement Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The project is in the planning and environmental review stages.

September 16, 2009

Tri State G & T

RE: Southern Colorado Transmission Improvements

We live directly on County Road 520 approximately ¼ mile north of the intersection with County Road 521 in the Majors Ranch residential area.

We built our retirement home in this location in 1998 and loved the land due to the peace and tranquility of the area. Our views in all directions are outstanding and enjoyed by ourselves and anyone who visits.

A main concern of ours is not only the decibel pitch that can be created by these power lines under certain conditions or the reduction of our property value with the introduction of these high voltage lines BUT our immediate wildlife population will be endangered.

The Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep herd in this area has grown over the past 10 years from a few not too healthy sheep to over 30 wonderful animals that drink from our water tanks. The deer amble across our open land, wild turkeys play, our horses enjoy watching the elk herds graze. It's amazing to watch the Golden Eagles swoop down and settle at the top of a large pinon tree.

We are adamantly opposed to your planned routing along and near County Road 520 and 521.


Ron Hicklin


Joan Hicklin

5427 County Road 520
Walsenburg, CO 81089
719-738-3072

B-035-060

Current project information will be available on the RUS project website, <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm> and the Utilities' project website, <http://www.socotransmission.com/>.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-057: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-058: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-059: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

Dear Tri State and RUS:

Our covenants require us to put all utilities underground, at significant additional expense, and we have gladly complied with these covenants to protect the beauty and safety of Majors Ranch for ourselves and our neighbors, and to protect our property values.

B-035-061 We specifically purchased property in Majors Ranch because there were no proposed power lines in the area. **We are currently planning to build a home on our lot and are very concerned about power line routes 48, 66, 65, 63 and 62 going through this "residential" ranch area because of the known safety concerns surrounding EMF.**

B-035-062 **I understand Tri-State wanting to take the least cost short-term solution, but it seems very short-sighted to create a brand new corridor, through residential property with the inherent risks to health and property values, when transportation and utility corridors already exist.**

Thanks.
Rob Unger
Phase III, lot 10

Dear Tri State:

B-035-063 **I am opposed to the high-voltage power line routes of 66 and 65 because as a breast cancer survivor, I could not build on my land to live or retire to if the lines were near or close to my property.**

Jennifer Aucoin
Phase 1, Lot 7

Dear Tri State and RUS:

I most adamantly object to any agency, organization, corporation or company being allowed to build high-voltage power lines through any part of Majors Ranch Home Owners Association (MRPOA) property. **Specifically, I protest the use of alternative routes 48, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65 and 66 as identified in the plan for routing the high-voltage lines.**

B-035-064 We have 2 homes on our property with full time residents and will be significantly impacted in any change of the landscape that can be seen and obviously these high-voltage lines are quite easily seen thereby negating the reason we purchased property in this area.

B-035-065 There are many reasons for this objection, but first and foremost is the proven side effects of high-voltage lines on the human body which has shown

B-035-060: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-061: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-062: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-063: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

B-035-065 | to cause birth defects in the unborn and cancer in those living.

Additionally, the high voltage lines:

B-035-066 | - Negatively impact Bighorn Sheep, an endangered species, from procreating.
- Negatively impact Elk, Deer and Antelope fertilization and calving.

B-035-067 | - Significantly reduce the value of personal property in MRPOA.
- Alter the landscape in both beauty and personality, as well as, fail to comply with current MRPOA regulations requiring all power lines to be placed underground.

The rights of US citizens and residents of rural America should not be trampled upon in the name of progress, "green" power or any other authority.

I am a USAF 20 year Veteran who is also a "Service-Connected Disabled" veteran that has proudly served and sacrificed for our rights.

Don't tread on me!

Douglas W. Fry
USAF Lt Col, retired
303-513-2029
303-346-2856

B-035-068 | We own almost 100 acres of beautiful land on Majors Ranch. We do not want it ruined by your power lines running through it! There is so much wildlife around the area, you don't need to disrupt any more of the land. **We are totally against your company putting lines by or through**

B-035-069 | **routes 48,59,61,62,63,65 and 66.** There are plenty of existing utility corridors running through the land without you tearing up the land more.

B-035-070 | The area is a rural residential with underground lines, and should be kept that way. Plus the proven EMF causing cancer, we don't need that either from your company. We are planning to build an environmentally friendly house with solar power, off the grid. There are a few houses on the ranch which are off the grid and hopefully more to come. So keep your power lines to yourself and stay away from Majors Ranch. Larry & Kathleen Ortiz

Kathleen M. Ortiz
ACE program
Pickens Technical College
303-326-2000 ex27970
kmortiz@aps.k12.co.us

601 Big Horn Dr.
Majors Ranch

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-064: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-065: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-066: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-067: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the

Walsenburg, CO 81089

To Tri State:

In the 1970's we visited Colorado and decided this is where we would retire. In 1996 we purchased our lot in Majors Ranch because of the scenic mountains and dikes, the beautiful night sky, the wildlife and the climate. We chose a subdivision with covenants that would preclude anyone obstructing the views with power lines and telephone wires as they must be underground. We built our dream home and moved here in 2004, Routes 66 and 65 would devastate this. Now the very things that brought us to the area are being threatened by huge power lines and wind farms. We see no reason and do not want you to devalue more property with new utility corridors when there are already existing ones.

B-035-071

B-035-072

This area is known to be a major breeding area for the Big Horn Sheep. It is also filled with many other species of wildlife. On cool mornings we run the dog team on the private roads of Phase III of Majors Ranch. Attached is a log we have kept of the wildlife observed on those runs.

Yours truly,

Bob and Nancy Russell
Phase II, lot 25

Russell's Majors Ranch Wildlife Log

2009		mileage
May- 3	3 deer, 20+ elk, 8 antelope, 2 Big Horns	11
6	2 antelope	6
8	3 deer, 2 antelope	6
12	4 elk, 7 antelope, 1 red tailed hawk	7
13	1 antelope	2
14	1 antelope	10
15	1 antelope, 2 Big Horn	7
16	3 antelope	7
18	4 antelope, 2 deer	7
29	1 antelope	7
31	3 deer	3
June 7	1 bear, 1 elk	6
12	2 bear seen from the house	
21	7 antelope	6
July 1	3 deer, plus mother and fawn	6
2	2 antelope	6
9	1 deer	6
18	1 deer	5
21	10 antelope	7
Aug. 18	9 Big Horn	6
Sept. 8	10 Big Horn, 12 antelope, 1 coyote	2
11	5 Big Horn	7

proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-068: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-069: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-070: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

13 2 antelope
15 3 antelope
16 4 antelope
17 1 porcupine

10
5
6
2

I, Rosa Lopez Pino, am opposed to the Southern Colorado Trans-mission Project that would place power lines along CRs 520 & 521, specifically routes 48, 66, 65, 63 and 62.

B-035-073 I believe this project would negatively impact the habitat that our wildlife needs to continue to thrive in this area. My husband has lived in this area all his life and I moved here 20 years ago. We've always enjoyed watching the elk, deer, antelope and even coyotes roam the hills and prairies surrounding our home. The lines that are already in place are sufficient to meet our needs and I feel that additional lines would mar the beauty and tranquility we value and enjoy so much.

Rosa Lopez Pino
Phase II, Lot 1

Living on the Majors Ranch has awakened my senses; it feels like living in a National Park. Uninterrupted views where we can watch the eagles, crows, and hawks overhead. We have built 40 blue bird nesting boxes. We wake up listening to the coyotes, turkeys and hummingbirds singing/humming their early morning songs. Elk, deer and big horn sheep graze in our pastures. **The placement and orientation of Routes 66 and 65 completely degrading the property boundaries is unacceptable.**

B-035-075

Our covenants require we have underground electrical and phone lines. If you Tri-State run routes through Majors Ranch they should also be underground.

Robert P. Benesky and Geraldine A. Benesky

Phase 1, Lot 27 and Phase 2, Lot 30

POB 510

Walsenburg, CO 81089

My comments on the Comanche to SLV transmission line project:

B-035-076 Tri-State should develop the proposed alternative energy sources to first resolve the potential power deficit in the San Luis Valley. If, at some point, excess power is available for export from

B-035-071: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-072: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-073: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-074: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

B-035-077 | the valley, Tri-State should upgrade the lines along existing transmission corridors to accomodate additional power requirements.

To provide additional power capacity from the eastern plains to the San Luis Valley, Tri-State has rejected all existing transmission right-of-way locations. All of the proposed routes require new right-of-way. **Acquiring new right-of-way maximizes environmental impact of the project, specifically routes 66, 65, 48, 62, 63.** The proposed line will not service any facilities along the route, due likely to the high cost of substations capable of converting other sources to and from the high line voltage, so the proposed locations are not driven by service requirements. Tri-State should follow existing transmission corridors to minimize environmental consequences.

B-035-078 | Public Service of Colorado has proposed also using this new right-of-way to promote the development of solar power for export out of the San Luis Valley. If solar power can be generated in the valley, it likely could mitigate the potential voltage collapse, and the initial necessity of the new line becomes moot.

Thank you,
Alan Bielski
Majors Ranch

May 29, 2009

Tri-State G&T
Attn: Karli Nelson
1100 W. 116th Ave.
Westminster, CO 80234

Dear Ms. Nelson,

It has come to our attention that Tri-State G&T is considering erecting power transmission lines through our neighborhood on Majors Ranch in Huerfano County... specifically, in corridors along CR520 from US160 to CO69, or along CR520 from US160 to CR521 and then to CO69.

B-035-079 | **Our property is on the Southeast corner of the intersection of CR520 and CR521 and specifically object to routes 48, 66, 65, 63, and 62.** We are dismayed at the prospect of losing the unobstructed views for which we purchased the land, as well as the predictable drop in value of what we've worked so hard to attain for our place of retirement. And, for us especially, there's the concern about the detrimental effect of the electro-magnetic field created by high-voltage transmission lines, not only to our own health, but to the wonderful and diverse wildlife indigenous to the area.

B-035-080 |

Please consider other routing options for the power lines.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-075: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-076: Purpose and Need (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-077: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-078: Purpose and Need (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Harry S Keller
Phase II, Lot 44

Dear Tri State:

We would like to protest the proposed locations of new electrical transmission lines through our rural residential subdivision. We bought this property a couple years ago with the intention of building a weekend vacation and (eventual) retirement home. **Proposed route 65 goes within about a quarter mile of our property, and route 66 would be in a direct line of our view south to the Spanish Peaks.** Such major power lines would have a direct impact on property values and the desirability of owning in Majors Ranch, and would destroy the natural beauty of the area.

B-035-081

Thanks for your attention.

Dean and Rebecca Myers
Lot 5, Phase 2, Majors Ranch
2127 N Nevada
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-079: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-080: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

B-035-081: Environmental Consequences (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.